

Be at war with your vices and temptations, at peace with your neighbors, and let every **New Year** find you a better person.

Gold Hymnal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"There's a New Kid in Town"*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We have come here to celebrate; a child has been born for us.

People: His name is called Wonderful Counselor, Good Shepherd, Lamb of God.

Leader: He is the babe of Bethlehem and the mighty God.

People: His name is called Savior, author of life, bread of life.

Leader: He is called friend and guide,

People: and we call him everlasting life and Prince of Peace and the one who brings love to all humankind.

Leader: Let us worship with joyous and thankful praise. God is with us. **AMEN.**

***HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful".....no. 193**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we have failed you and ourselves by not becoming the people you have called us to be. Yet by your love and power, you transform death into life, despair into hope, lifeless stumps into tender shoots and a tiny baby into the Prince of Peace. In the hearing of your Word and the repenting of our sins, transform the hardness of our hearts into lives of receptivity, following the One who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

+SILENT PRAYER

(please use this time to confess your own personal sin)

+KYRIE

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love has been offered to us again and again, freely and gladly. By that love we have been forgiven.

**People: By the love of the Christ Child we are born anew!
AMEN!**

***GLORIA PATRI.....no. 142**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 61:10-62:3 pg. 604

CHOIR ANTHEM *"The Snow Lay on the Ground"*

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-38 pg. 833

MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER

***THE CREED.....inside front cover of hymnal**

***HYMN "Good Christian Men Rejoice".....no. 177**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *"Christmas Medley"*

***OFFERING RESPONSE/THE DOXOLOGY.....no. 382**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

***HYMN "Go Tell It on a Mountain".....no. 205**

Let There Be Peace on Earth Gold Hymnal no. 681

CHIMES, QUIET MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE *"Venite Adoremus"*

(those who are able please *- stand, +-kneel)

Church Phone.....717-484-4400

Church website.....www.peaceunitedchurch.org

Pastor (pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org).....William Hoch

Organist (organist@peaceunitedchurch.org).....Phyllis Sands

Secretary (secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org).....Beverly Madara

Treasurer (treasurer@peaceunitedchurch.org).....Michael Madara

Altar Guild Workers.....Edie Graff and Dixie Schweitzer

Greeters.....Carl and Vicki Sweigart

Head Usher.....Chris Fitterling

The Altar flowers are dedicated with the hope and prayer for a blessed and healthy 2018 for all.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us also pray for those whose needs remain silent.

Doris Fultz Kathy Schlegel Robinette Palsgrove

Mel Gerhart Scott Leshar Deb Schleicher

Mark Bays Mildred Krick Sally Romich

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 3rd – Marketing Committee – 7:00 pm
Sunday, January 7th – Installation of New Council Members
Tuesday, January 9th – Council Meetings – 6:30 and 7:00 pm
Saturday, January 13th – Abigail Butz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner –
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Sunday, January 14th – Epiphany Communion
Saturday, January 20th – Youth Mystery Dinner – 5:00 pm

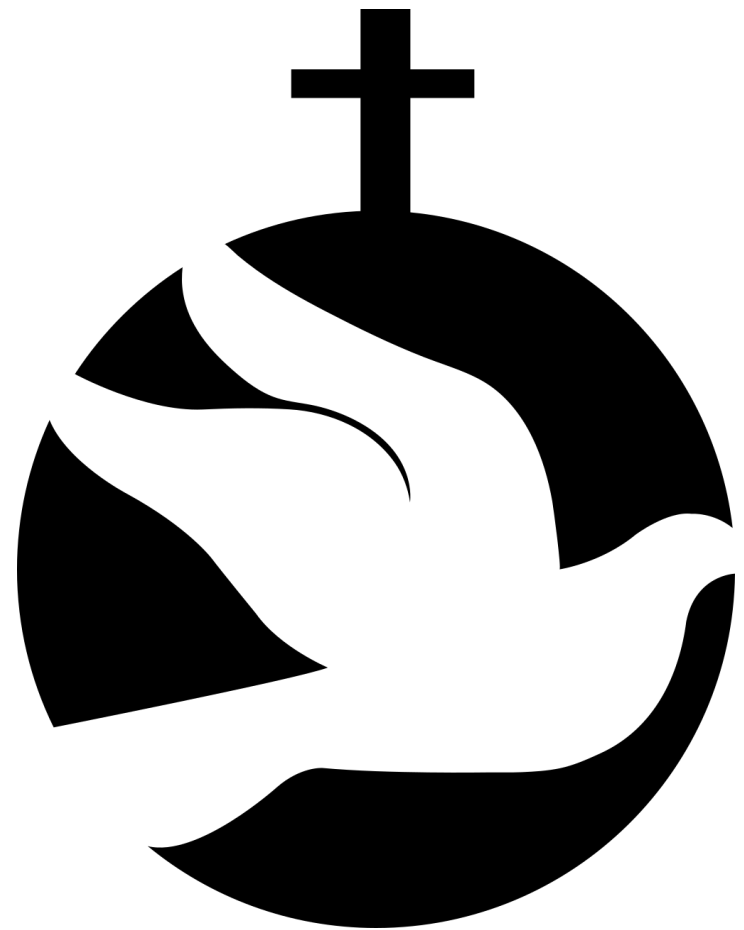
Recently, our youth wrote letters to the youth of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. These cards were received with tears of joy and great appreciation. The youth of Zion decided to write back immediately.

This simple act of kindness, reminds us that we are all connected and in solidarity with one another. We therefore invite you to follow the example of our youth and write a letter expressing your hopes and prayers for the people of Zion Church and Puerto Rico as they continue to rebuild in the coming New Year.

Please drop your cards in the box that will be provided in the Narthex and we will send them all together.

During the months of January and February the Peace Pantry will be collecting new white men's socks for the homeless veterans throughout Pennsylvania. These socks will be distributed by John and Mary Getz to the homeless veterans' shelters.

Peace United Church of Christ



December 31, 2017
First Sunday after Christmas